

**New Jersey
Noise Control Council Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2004**

Attendees

Joe Lepis, Chair	Chief Philip Muller	David Triggs, NJDEP
Renu Agrawal	Ed DiPolvere	Deborah Pinto, NJDEP
John Kapferer	Carol Pennenga	Eric Zwerling, RNTAC
Michael Klewin	Dr. Joseph Soporowski	

Absent

Mike Lakat
George Miller
Nicholas Fiore

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed in memory of the anniversary of the World Trade Center disaster.

Noise Rule Amendments

The meeting was spent reviewing the proposed noise rule amendments. The following comments were made:

- The removal of the train noise exemption will probably be the most controversial change. The State regulations will only pertain to locomotive idling and coupling noise. A decibel standard measured from the receptor's property line is preferred over collecting measurements from the center of the train tracks for safety purposes.
- The use of church bells other than as part of religious services must be "reasonable". Of particular concern to some council members is the potential broadcasting of services outdoors. What is considered to be "reasonable" will have to be determined by the Attorney General's Office.
- No major changes to the racetrack noise exemption are anticipated. Activities such as concerts held at racetracks should not be exempt from the State's Noise Rules.
- There was a discussion proposing to delete industry as a receptor but to consider attached office space with five or more full-time personnel as a commercial facility. Since there has been no petition for rule making to address this issue and there have been virtually no industry-to-industry noise complaints to the Department, office space will not be considered at industrial properties.
- Grace periods for minor violations (< 10 dBA above noise standards) of up to 180 days can be granted. Major violations greater than 10 dBA above the noise level standards are based on a "doubling of perceived loudness". Anything above 85 dBA is considered injurious to human health.
- The definition for transient noise should be removed from the rule since extraneous noise by definition addresses most background noise.
- The issue of whether to hold the Rutgers re-certification course every three years as opposed to every two was voted on by the Council with 5 to 2 in favor of not extending it one year. It was also agreed that the health officers should be notified about which personnel are due for re-certification.
- Commercial facilities participating in an emergency should not be exempt from the noise rules at their facility property when moving materials to use during an emergency since it should be a part of their anticipated site operations. Activities at the site of the emergency are exempt.

Subcommittee Meeting

A separate subcommittee meeting was held immediately following the regular Noise Control Council meeting. Deborah Pinto, David Triggs, Eric Zwerling and Joe Lepis met to discuss technical explanations for some of the proposed amendments to the Noise Rule. The Department needed clarification on the following changes:

- The 25-foot distance/buffer around residential areas of a multi-use property.
- A technical explanation for using the C-scale.
- Deleting industrial properties as a receptor.
- Defining a violation as ineligible for grace periods if the sound exceeds 10 decibels over the sound level standards.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON OCTOBER 12TH, AT 9:30 AM AT THE RUTGERS
LABOR EDUCATION BUILDING**